

EVENING PAPERS: SATURDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 1934.  
MORNING PAPERS: MONDAY, 15TH JANUARY, 1934.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

Statistics from various sources which offer some indication of the change in the intensity of unemployment, and in the volume of factory employment are made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. E.T. McPhee).

UNEMPLOYMENT, 4th QUARTER, 1933.

The figures relating to unemployment are similar to those published quarterly in the past, and are derived from returns furnished by Trade Unions.

The number of trade unionists represented in the returns from which the following figures have been derived is normally about half the total. The proportion is low, perhaps, rather higher because the Unions from which no returns are received include those with the most fluctuating membership, and whose membership is probably unusually low. Generally, it may be said that the returns of unemployment include little information about rural employment, so that the percentage results given herein do not vary greatly with the season. The total unemployment in the country, however, may be affected a good deal by the crop seasons.

The percentages of unemployment in reporting Trade Unions for each quarter since the beginning of 1931 are as follows :-

1931	1st Quarter	..	..	25.8	per cent
	2nd "	..	..	27.6	" "
	3rd "	..	..	28.3	" "
	4th "	..	..	28.0	" "
1932	1st "	..	..	28.3	" "
	2nd "	..	..	30.0	" "
	3rd "	..	..	29.6	" "
	4th "	..	..	28.1	" "
1933	1st "	..	..	26.5	" "
	2nd "	..	..	25.7	" "
	3rd "	..	..	25.1	" "
	4th "	..	..	23.0	" "

It should be noted that the figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of November, 1933.

The percentages given above show the almost continuous rise in unemployment to the 2nd Quarter of 1932 which had been uninterrupted since 1929. After remaining fairly constant at 28.0 per cent. to 28.3 per cent. for three quarters - from August, 1931 to February, 1932 - the maximum point hitherto attained was reached in May, 1932, when the proportion of unemployment in the reporting Trade Unions was 30 per cent. of the membership.

From the apex the proportion of unemployed decreased by 4 per thousand in the 3rd quarter of 1932, and in the two quarters following the improvement was much more marked, amounting to 15 per 1,000 in the fourth quarter of 1932, and to 16 per 1,000 in the first quarter of 1933. The improvement continued, though at a reduced rate, until it became 23.0 per cent. for November, 1933. This is the lowest percentage of unemployment since August, 1930, when it was 20.5 per cent. Since the maximum point in May, 1932, the rate of unemployment has diminished by 7.0 per cent., or 70 per 1,000 members - from 30.0 to 23.0 per cent. in November, 1933.

This improvement since the 2nd quarter of 1932 has been experienced in all the States in the following order (per 1,000 members):- Western Australia 98; Tasmania 92; Victoria 78; South Australia 63; New South Wales 62; Queensland 61. The more recent improvement during the 4th quarter of 1933 over the previous quarter was also general throughout the States, in the following order:- Improvement per 1,000 members - Western Australia 51; Victoria 26; New South Wales 18; South Australia 14; Queensland 13; Tasmania 10.

Among the industrial groups, those showing the greatest improvement per 1,000 members since the peak in 1932 are :- Other Manufacturing (undefined) 126; Building 99; Engineering and Metal Working 81; Mines and Quarries 51; Wood, Furniture etc. 67; and Land Transport (other than Railways and Tramways) 66; Clothing, hats, boots, etc. 65; Miscellaneous 51; and Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. 29.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended.

UNEMPLOYMENT - AUSTRALIA - Number and Membership of Trade Unions Reporting, and Number and Percentage Unemployed - 1st Quarter, 1929; and 2nd Quarter, 1932, to 4th Quarter, 1933.

AUSTRALIA		1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	4th Quarter 1932	1st Quarter 1933	2nd Quarter 1933	3rd Quarter 1933	4th Quarter 1933
Number of Unions	..	375	396	392	394	394	394	394
Membership	..	420,756	413,742	409,902	412,674	415,559	416,426	416,560
Unemployed - Number	..	39,159	124,068	115,042	109,182	106,652	104,560	95,745
Percentage		9.3	30.0	28.1	26.5	25.7	25.1	23.0

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions returned as Unemployed in each State for the 1st Quarter, 1929; 2nd Quarter, 1932, to 4th Quarter, 1933.

State		1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	4th Quarter 1932	1st Quarter 1933	2nd Quarter 1933	3rd Quarter 1933	4th Quarter 1933
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	..	9.7	33.2	31.9	30.2	29.6	28.8	27.0
Victoria	..	8.6	27.7	25.2	23.9	23.0	22.5	19.9
Queensland	..	7.1	19.9	17.9	16.7	15.6	15.1	13.8
South Australia	..	13.2	35.2	32.2	30.5	30.0	30.3	28.9
Western Australia	..	8.5	30.3	28.9	27.1	26.0	25.6	20.5
Tasmania	..	8.7	27.4	23.8	19.8	19.0	19.2	18.2
AUSTRALIA	..	9.3	30.0	28.1	26.5	25.7	25.1	23.0

Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups - Australia - 1st Quarter, 1929; 2nd Quarter, 1932 to 4th Quarter, 1933.

Industrial Group		1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	4th Quarter 1932	1st Quarter 1933	2nd Quarter 1933	3rd Quarter 1933	4th Quarter 1933
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I. Wood, Furniture etc.		6.5	39.6	38.4	36.2	35.3	34.8	32.9
II. Engineering, Metal Works &c.		11.2	33.9	31.6	30.2	30.0	28.6	25.8
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco etc.		5.4	19.4	18.4	16.6	16.7	18.1	16.5
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots etc.		9.8	22.6	17.8	17.1	17.4	19.1	16.1
V. Books, Printing etc.		2.6	16.8	15.6	15.8	15.9	15.5	13.2
VI. Other Manufacturing		13.8	43.0	39.8	37.8	35.9	32.9	30.4
VII. Building	..	10.6	42.1	40.2	38.7	36.6	35.1	32.2
VIII. Mining, Quarrying etc.		13.2	34.2	33.7	29.1	28.1	29.0	29.1
X. Land Transport, other than Railway and Tramway Services	..	7.6	29.6	28.0	27.1	25.4	24.8	23.0
IX, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV, Other and Miscellaneous		7.3	22.2	21.1	19.9	19.2	18.8	17.1
TOTAL:	..	9.3	30.0	28.1	26.5	25.7	25.1	23.0



# EMPLOYMENT.

As a supplement to the figures of unemployment given above, some figures indicating the changes in employment in factories are given below for four States. The figures for New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia have been supplied by the Government Statisticians for those States, (for convenience of comparison the figures for New South Wales have been converted to a percentage basis) while the figures for Queensland have been taken from the "Economic News" issued by the Queensland Bureau of Industry. Similar figures are not available for Victoria or Tasmania.

The figures given immediately below for New South Wales are based on 42 factories representing about 11 per cent. of all factory employment in that State; the South Australian figures are based on not less than 50 per cent. of all factory employment; while Western Australian figures cover 35 per cent. of all persons similarly employed.

## INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

Base:- New South Wales and South Australian results are shown as percentages on the numbers employed in January, 1930; Western Australian figures are related to the average monthly employment for the year 1929-30.

No allowance has been made in the following figures for increased population.

MONTH		New South Wales	South Australia	Western Australia
January, 1930	..	100	100	100 (a)
January, 1931	..	75	71	(b)
January, 1932	..	76	70	65
January, 1933	..	84	80	82
February, 1933	..	87	84	83
March, "	..	86	86	83
April, "	..	87	89	84
May, "	..	87	86	80
June, "	..	86	84	80
July, "	..	89	87	79
August, "	..	90	87	83
September, "	..	93	87	85
October, "	..	95	88	87

(a) Base - Year 1929-30.

(b) Not available.

A more recent investigation by the Government Statistician of New South Wales, which was extended to 98 of the larger factories, indicates that there were 42,136 employees on the pay sheets in the middle week of October, 1933, compared with 38,415 in the corresponding week of 1932, and 33,392 in 1931. This represents an increase in factory employment of 26 per cent. in two years and is somewhat higher than the figures obtained from the 42 factories referred to above.

## QUEENSLAND. (From "Economic News").

### Employment and Unemployment - Men Wage-Earners.

(Full-time, including its equivalent in "rationed" employment and unemployment).

Period	Percentage of all who are dependent on employment		Approximate number (including the equivalent of rationing)	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Average 1929 ..	89.9	10.1	148,340	16,660
" 1930 ..	86.4	13.6	144,630	22,850
" 1931 ..	77.2	22.8	131,270	38,730
" 1932 ..	77.8	22.2	134,130	38,320
" 1933 to				
October ..	79.3	20.7	138,690	36,130
3 months ended -				
March, 1933 ..	78.2	21.8	136,290	37,990
June, " ..	79.0	21.0	138,190	36,730
September, 1933	79.8	20.2	140,040	35,540
October, "	81.5	18.5	143,200	32,600

"Employment further increased by about 3,200 during the three months ended October, two-thirds being increased Government employment. Employment has now recovered almost to the average for 1930."

The Director of the Queensland Bureau of Industry makes the following explanation of the differences in the per centages of employed and unemployed given above from those published in the previous statement:- "The above table has been revised throughout, to include all employment including ordinary Government employment and the equivalent of full-time work, provided by all relief employment. This follows the practice of official recording in New South Wales and Victoria, and is less liable to be misunderstood."

"The Table is in terms of full-time employment and unemployment, and rationing is largely responsible for the results shown since 1929."

(Source:- Unemployment Insurance Contributions etc., wages paid from the Unemployment Relief Tax Fund etc.)

#### BUILDING PERMITS.

A further index of the relative activity in industry is furnished by Building Permits issued and the estimated cost of the proposed buildings and repairs.

The following table gives details of the value of Building Permits issued in the Six Capital Cities and Suburbs of the Commonwealth for the periods shown.

Year	New Dwellings	Other New Buildings	Alterations & Additions	Total Value All Building Operations
	£	£	£	£
1928	17,547,932	4,923,432	873,282	23,344,646
1929	15,165,875	4,443,784	931,410	20,541,069
1930	4,454,429	1,881,174	1,190,754	7,526,357
1931	1,249,421	1,818,764	1,128,938	4,197,123
1932	2,414,454	1,710,965	1,680,796	5,806,215
1931 3rd Qtr.	250,054	612,854	306,541	1,169,449
1932 " "	709,943	316,090	454,563	1,480,601
1933 " "	1,325,620	385,586	594,772	2,305,978

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

CANBERRA    F.C.T.    9th January, 1934.